

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have returned fiscal responsibility and discipline to Washington. When House Republicans became a majority in 1994, there were deficits as far as the eye could see. Today, because House Republicans held the line on spending and reined in President Clinton and House Democrats, there is boundless prosperity. And because of this, America has reelected a House Republican majority for four consecutive elections.

It is now time to work together across party lines. The American public has a right to expect their elected officials to work together to address the people's business. The next Congress, America's 107th, will have a unique opportunity to do this, making a fresh start with a new President in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, even in this time of prosperity, our Nation faces real challenges. There are challenges I know that we can meet by working together. And I am confident that I speak for all the Members of the new Congress in pledging to put people ahead of politics.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 126) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 126

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-275, is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting "December 7, 2000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, December 4, 2000, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on H.J. Res. 126.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the continuing resolution that we bring to the floor this morning is a 2-day extension to the current continuing resolution that will keep the remaining elements of the Government operating that have not yet had their regular appropriations bills enacted.

As our colleagues know, we really have only one appropriations bill that has not been concluded and most of the issues relative to not concluding that bill have been non-appropriations issues. They have been policy issues, legislative issues. Nevertheless, that bill is not completed.

There was a meeting at the White House yesterday between the bicameral leadership of the House and Senate, Republican and Democrat. We hope that that will produce some beneficial results. I believe that I speak for at least most of the Members of the House when I say that it is time to conclude the business of the 106th Congress, and it is time to begin preparation for the 107th Congress, which will convene in January. And the way to accomplish that is to conclude the business on this final appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me simply say hello to you and to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing very complicated about this resolution, but I think there is something very troubling that lies underneath it.

Up until yesterday, I had been fairly confident that the House, if it wished, could come to a conclusion on this year's appropriation bills and finish our work this week, our left-over work from the previous session.

I now am feeling much more pessimistic than I was, largely based upon conversations which took place at the White House last night and based upon newspaper accounts of people's comments after that meeting last night.

I was originally optimistic because I thought that, when we left, we had had very few differences that actually remained. They were largely focused on two appropriations bills, the Labor-Health bill and the State-Justice-Commerce bill.

On State-Justice there was the immigration controversy. And on the Labor-Health, the focus of objection to that bill, which was negotiated on a bipartisan basis and a bicameral basis, the principal objection that we heard when we came back was the language with respect to ergonomics. And that issue has now become moot because those regulations have been published.

So at this point, what I think we really face is the question of whether or not there is, as a price for getting our work done, we are going to be asked to in a major way pare back the

level of appropriations for items such as education that are now contained in the Labor-Health education conference.

Mr. Speaker, we have the votes in both Houses for that Labor-Health and Education conference if the leadership will ever allow it to come to the floor. But so far, it is being prevented from coming to the floor by the leadership.

I would simply say that some may remember around here what happened over the past year. For the first 9 months of the year, it was apparent that the majority was intending to provide education numbers which were significantly below where those of us on this side of the aisle felt they ought to be. Then, with the putting together of the conference report of Labor-Health and Education in the closing days of the session before the election, everyone walked out of here and most people on both sides of the aisle campaigned for the funding levels that were provided in that bill.

Now, apparently after the election, we are seeing a reversion to form and once again we are being asked to make major reductions in education as a price for having a convenient end to the session.

I think that is a price that many of us are not going to want to pay. And that is why I am much more pessimistic that we will, in fact, get the work done that we should be able to get done this week.

I find it interesting that the majority party and Mr. Bush campaigned, at least rhetorically campaigned, as those folks who could best bring us together in a bipartisan fashion; and yet the very first thing that we are being asked to do since we have returned, the very first thing we are being asked to do by the House leadership is to in fact walk away from and scuttle a bill upon which agreement had been reached on a bipartisan basis.

I do not think that is a healthy way in which to conclude this session. I do not think that is a healthy way in which to begin our relationships for the coming session. But apparently that is the direction that the leadership is most comfortable with.

I regret that. And so I will happily support this 2-day continuing resolution in the waning hope that we will be able to reach agreement and get out of here at the end of those 2 days, but I do so with no illusions and no real expectations that the conditions are present for that kind of a bipartisan, early resolution of this session.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I do so to point out that the other bills that were passed, sent to the White House and were vetoed have basically